



# Energy from Waste - supporting recycling



- Energy from Waste (EfW) is the process of converting rubbish that is unsuitable for recycling into electricity and heat. Thermal EfW is normally used to refer to the combustion of household waste to release energy.
- Ensuring maximum recycling of waste is an important part of this technology. From an environmental and social perspective, recovery of energy, recycling, reusing and waste avoidance is always preferable to landfilling.
- To the extent possible, EfW only treats waste that is left over once secondary materials have been removed or recycled.
- The EfW facility also offers an opportunity to recover non-combustible materials like metals and other inert materials post combustion, which can then be recycled or reused for things like road construction material.
- In fact, countries like Germany, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands, where EfW technology has been widely adopted, also have some of the highest recycling rates in Europe demonstrating that the two can happily co-exist (see tables overleaf).
- In Victoria, waste that is not re-used or recycled is ultimately disposed of in landfill. The proposed EfW facility is expected to divert an estimated 650,000 tonnes of residual waste from Victorian landfills each year.
- EfW is the missing link in our waste infrastructure in Victoria.

## Victorian Government's waste hierarchy [from EPA Victoria]



## Rates of landfill, waste-to-energy and recycling in Europe

Evidence from Europe suggests that EfW does not act as a disincentive to material recovery or recycling, and that high recycling rates go hand in hand with high energy recovery rates.

